

St. Mary's - 349  
St. Mark UAME Church (Site)  
Happyland Rd.  
Valley Lee, MD 20692

1891, 1968, 1973

Access: Public

I know of only three Union American Methodist Episcopal Churches in the state of Maryland, St. Mark (Valley Lee), St. Luke (Piney Point) and Graves Chapel (Millington). The U.A.M.E. Church was founded by the Rev. Peter Spencer on Sept. 18th, 1813. Spencer was born in Kent County, Maryland.

St. Mark UAME Church was founded by the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman and 30 members from Bethesda ME Church in 1891. Hezekiah Statesman served as pastor of this church from 1891 until 1898. St. Mark's celebrates "Statesman Day" on the 1st Sunday in October. The original church was demolished and a new church was built on this site in 1968.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Mark U.A.M.E. Church (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Happyland Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Marys

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

## OWNERSHIP

## STATUS

## PRESENT USE

☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees, St. Mark U.A.M.E. Church  
C/O Rev. Rudy C. Brooks

Telephone #: 994-9896

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Happyland Road

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD, 20692**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's Co. Court House

Liber #: MRF 136

Folio #: 303

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

SM-349

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE 1891

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The present St.Mark U.A.M.E. Church stands 15' from the west side of Happyland Road near Valley Lee, Maryland. The church is constructed of cement block and was erected in 1968. It faces east and is 36' across the front facade and 60' in depth. I have attached photographs of this structure. It was built on the exact side of the old wooden church that was built here in 1891.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SM-349

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-1968-1973

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

I know of only three Union American Methodist Episcopal Churches in the state of Maryland, St. Mark (Valley Lee), St. Luke (Piney Point) and Graves Chapel (Millington). The U.A.M. E. Church was founded by the Rev. Peter Spencer who was born in Kent County, Md. in 1779. He went to Wilmington, Delaware and was affiliated with old Asbury M.E. Church (3rd & Walnut Sts.). He and 42 black members of this church removed themselves from their congregation in 1805 and met in groves and fields until they built Ezion M.E. Church (9th & French Sts.) in 1812. Spencer and his congregation fought with the M.E. Church over the acceptance of ministers appointed by the conference and finally withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church. On Sept. the 18th 1813 they opened a church on the corners of 8th and French Sts. in Wilmington and it was incorporated as The First Independent Church of Negroes. This church became known as the Union Church of Africans and in 1852 as the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. Mark U.A.M.E. Church was founded by the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman and 30 dissident members of Bethesda M.E. Church in 1891. St. Mark's still celebrates "Statesman Day" on the 1st day in October. Hezekiah Statesman served as pastor of this Church from 1891 until 1898. The Rev. Joseph S. Statesman, served as pastor from 1907 until 1943.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

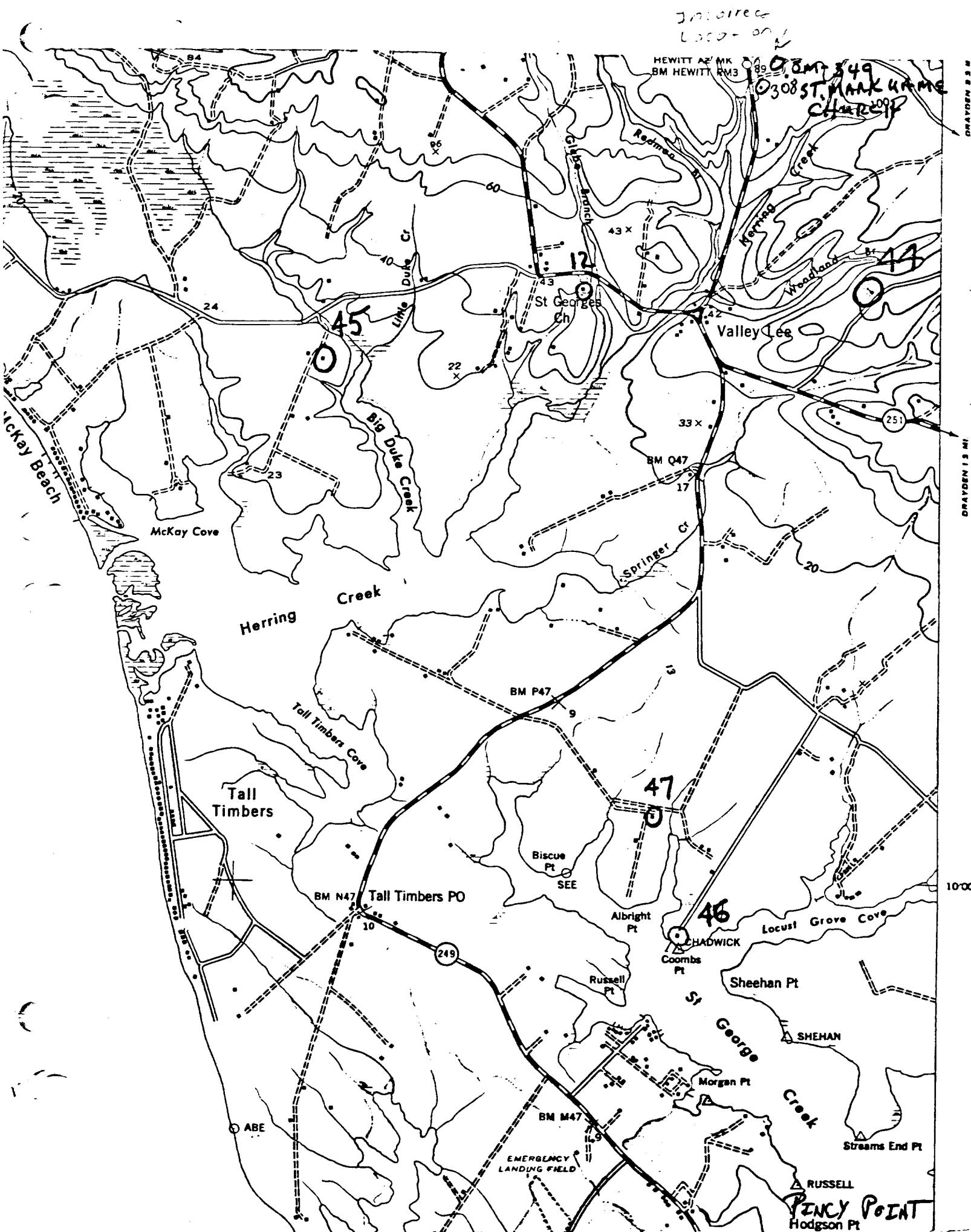
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



HEWITT AZ MK  
BM HEWITT RM3

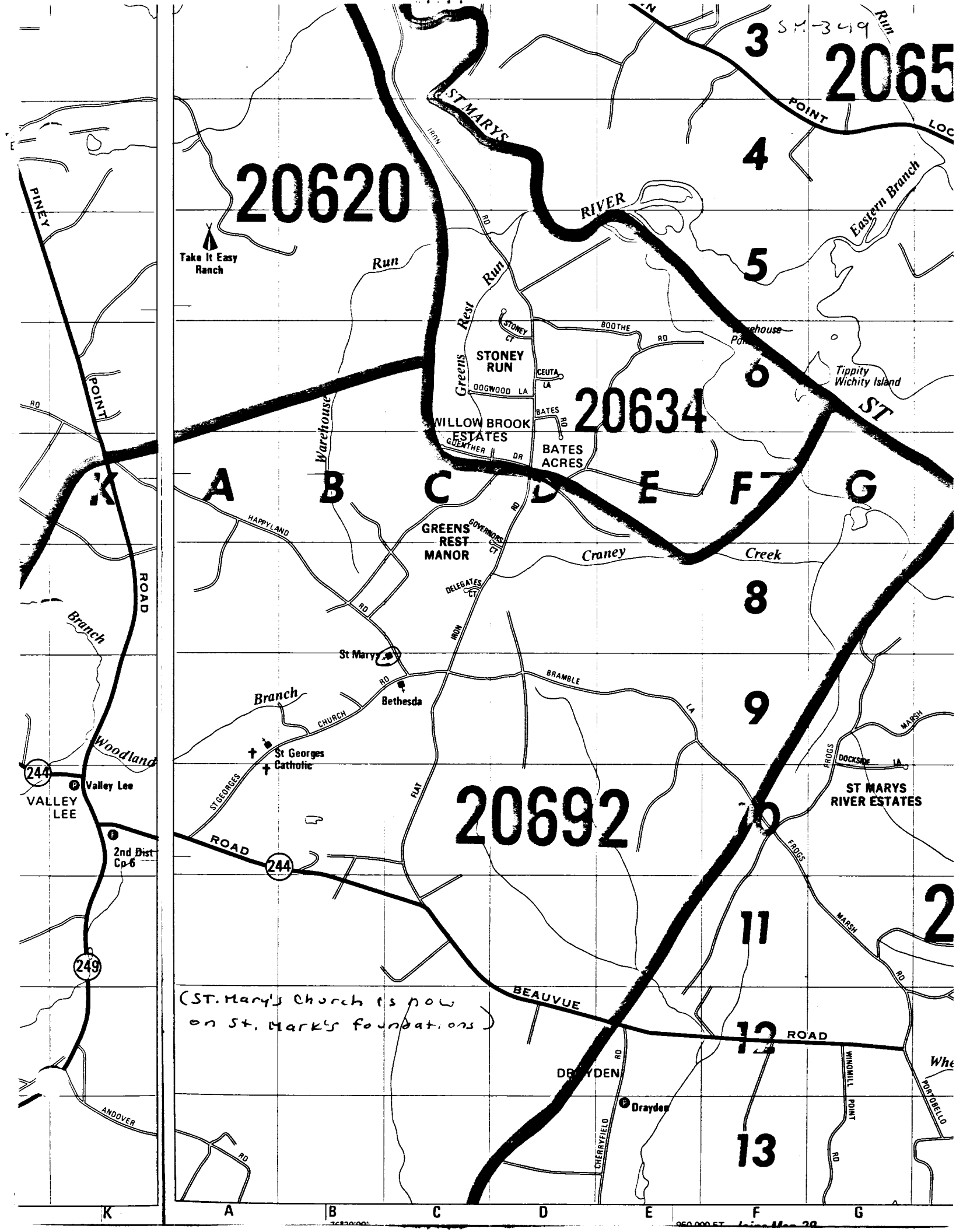
0.8M 349  
0308 ST. MARK NAME  
CHURCH

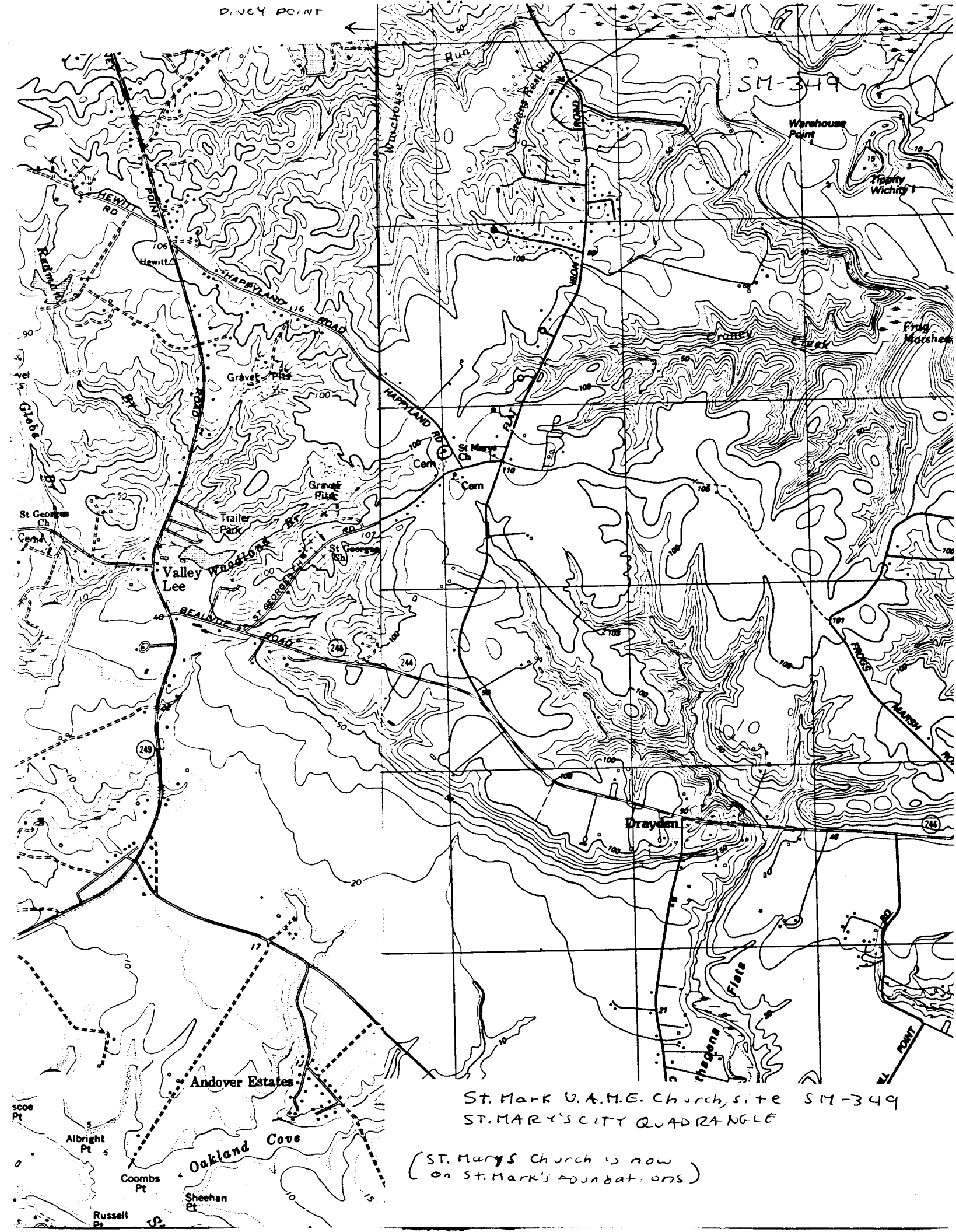
GRAYDEN 2.3 MI

GRAYDEN 1.3 MI

10'00

RUSSELL  
PINKY POINT  
Hodgson Pt





St. Mark U.A.M.E. Church, site SM-349  
ST. MARY'S CITY QUADRANGLE

(ST. Mary's Church is now  
on St. Mark's foundations)





St. Mark United A.M.E. Church SM-349  
Valley Lee, St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Southeast elevation  
1/81



St. Mark uame  
Valley lee

